IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (new): A drying apparatus for powdered or granular material, comprising:

a heat conducting fin formed with plural compartment walls radially projecting therefrom having an upper inlet and a lower outlet and having at its center a penetrating path provided with an electric heater therein, and

a hopper body provided at its upper part with a carrier gas introduction port and an exhaust port, which houses therein said heat conducting fin, wherein:

said upper inlet and said lower outlet communicate with said penetrating path, thereby constituting a carrier gas communication path, and a space sectioned by said plural compartment walls in said hopper body constitutes material storage space, and

said carrier gas is externally introduced into said carrier gas communication path through said carrier gas introduction port and heated in said penetrating path, then exhausted out of said hopper body through said exhaust port,

whereby said powdered or granular material stored in said material storage space is heated and dried by virtue of said carrier gas and said heat conducting fin.

Claim 6 (new): The drying apparatus for powdered or granular material as set forth in claim 5, wherein said hopper body has a material circulation feeder unit for circulating the powdered or granular material stored in said hopper body, and said feeder unit comprises a material supply means provided under said hopper body, a material collector provided above said hopper body and a material transport pipe connected to said material supply means and said material collector.

Claim 7 (new): The drying apparatus for powdered or granular material as set forth in claim 6, wherein said material transport pipe is comprised of a flexible hose detachably connected to said material collector.

Claim 8 (new): The drying apparatus for powdered or granular material as set forth in any one of claims 5 – 7, wherein said hopper body comprises a tubular container body and a bottom part divisibly combined with said tubular container body with a hinge and a fastening

means, and said tubular container body is inclinable relative to said bottom part to open and expose the inner of said bottom part by releasing said fastening means.